GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2867
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2000
VISIT OF FOREIGN TOURISTS
PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI;SAHIB SINGH VERMA

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists visited various places of attraction in India during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the said period, country-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide more attractive packages and facilities to foreign tourists?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE: (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR)

(a): Total number of foreign tourists who visited various places of tourist attractions in India during the years 1997, 1998, 1999 and from January to November 2000 are 2.37 million, 2.36 million, 2.48 million and 2.34 million respectively. The top ten countries which substantially contribute to the India's tourist arrivals are U.K., U.S.A., Sri Lanka, France, Germany, Canada, Japan, Australia, Singapore and Malaysia.

(b): The estimated foreign exchange earnings through tourism during the years 1997, 1998, 1999 and from January to November 2000 are Rs.10726 crores, Rs.11951 crores, Rs.13042 crores and Rs. 12754 crores respectively. Country-wise foreign exchange earnings are not maintained.

(c): Government have declared Explore India in the Millennium year campaign to attractmore foreign tourists with attractive package in collaboration with tourism and travel trade to market India as an affordable destination. India is also being promoted overseas through Government of India Tourist Offices in various tourist generating markets. Otherfacilities provided to tourists include installation of information Kiosk at places of tourist interest, Handy Audio Reach Kit, creation of official portal, virtual CD-ROMS on touristic themes, etc.